



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***PENSTEMON LEMHIENSIS*** **LEMHI BEARDTONGUE**

Lemhi Beardtongue is a large perennial, with 1- several stems that are 15-70 cm tall and arising from a branched rootstock and a short taproot. The leaves are narrowly lance-shaped with entire margins. The basal leaves have a petiole and are up to 16 cm long. The opposite stem leaves are sessile and are reduced upwards. Foliage is lightly covered with small hairs and occasionally has a thin, bluish wax. The inflorescence consists of clusters of several short-stalked flowers in the axils of the upper leaves. The tubular corolla is flared and two-lipped at the mouth, 25-35 mm long, and bright blue. The lance-shaped calyx segments taper to a long tip, are 7-11 mm long, and have a narrow white margin. The anthers are hairy with short pubescence, and the staminode is glabrous. Flowering from early June-late July, depending on climatic conditions and elevation. Fruits mature and dehisce during August-early September.

There are 3 species of tall *PENSTEMON* with large, bright blue flowers in southwest Montana. *P. LEMHIENSIS* can be distinguished from other species by its narrow, tapered calyx segments that are greater than 7 mm long, and by its glabrous staminode.